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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/732,828 | 12/11/2003 | Charles Stephen Beal | 108347-00017 | 6834 |

4372 7590 05/17/2005

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| EXAMINER |
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LAY, MICHELLE K

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2672

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/732,828

Applicant(s)

BEAL, CHARLES STEPHEN

Examiner

Michelle K. Lay

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims **1, 2, 4, 6 – 8, 15, 16, 18, 20 – 22** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Burke (US Publication No. US 2002/0167534 A1).

In regards to claims **1, 15 –**

Burke teaches a reading aid for electronic text. As shown in Fig. 1, the computer interface system (10) may have a computer display (12) (claim **15**: display), as well as a keyboard (14) and mouse (16) (claim **15**: input means). The computer display (12) displays images generated or transmitted by the computer, while the keyboard (14) and mouse (16) send signals to the computer for processing and possible display on the computer display (12) [0039].

Fig. 2 shows the computer screen (20) of the computer display (12) in an enlarged view, showing a web page (22) having a significant amount of text (24) (claims **1, 15**: alphanumeric characters on a display). Indicated in the lower left-hand part of the computer screen (20) is an activate/deactivate toggle button (30) that serves as an invocation toggle for the Reading Aid for Electronic Text of Burke's invention [[0040], lines 1 – 7]. Upon invoking the activation toggle button (30) as by double-clicking upon

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it, a default frame (40) may be superimposed or installed upon the computer screen (20) [[0042], lines 1 – 3]. Shown in Fig. 3 is the computer screen (20) with an opaque portion (40) divided by a clear portion (42) [[0041], lines 3 – 4]. By comparing Figs. 3 and 4, it can be seen that the framed area (42) may be narrow or wide and the frame (40) dense or light [[0042], lines 10 – 13]. This framed area (42) visually emphasizes a row of text to assist in reading (claims **1, 15**).

The clear portion (42) could be controlled as by a software option to follow the cursor (32) instead of the scroll bar (18). The cursor (32) could allow the clear, or transparent portion (42) to move in the same arbitrary fashion as the cursor (32), immediately focusing the attention of a reader or other audience upon the text or displayed file portion of interest (claims **1, 15**: receiving a user selection of a position) [[0048], lines 4 – 11].

In regards to claims **2, 16**, –

Shown in Fig. 3 is the computer screen (20) with an opaque portion (40) divided by a clear portion (42) (claims **2, 16**: visually emphasized by an opaque bar) [[0041], lines 3 – 4]. By comparing Figs. 3 and 4, it can be seen that the framed area (42) may be narrow or wide and the frame (40) dense or light [[0042], lines 10 – 13]. This framed area (42) visually emphasizes a row of text to assist in reading.

In regards to claims **4, 18** –

Fig. 5 shows a display similar to Fig. 4 where a narrow framed portion (42) surrounded by a larger framing portion (40). Text may be highlighted within a page and/or the cursor positioned to a certain location in a document [[0052], lines 1 – 3].

In regards to claims **6, 7, 20, 21** –

The clear portion (42) could be controlled as by a software option to follow the cursor (32) instead of the scroll bar (18). The cursor (32) could allow the clear, or transparent portion (42) to move in the same arbitrary fashion as the cursor (32), immediately focusing the attention of a reader or other audience upon the text or displayed file portion of interest (claims **6, 20**: move visual emphasis) [[0048], lines 4 – 11]. The movement of the clear, or transparent portion (42) simulates a drag feature initiated by the cursor, since the clear, or transparent portion (42) is relocated to the coordinates of the position of the cursor by following the route of the cursor (claim **7, 21**: dragging)

In regards to claims **8, 22** –

Fig. 2 shows the computer screen (20) of the computer display (12) in an enlarged view, showing a web page (22) having a significant amount of text (24). Indicated in the lower left-hand part of the computer screen (20) is an activate/deactivate toggle button (30) that serves as an invocation toggle for the Reading Aid for Electronic Text of Burke's invention [[0040], lines 1 – 7]. Upon invoking the activation toggle button (30) as by double-clicking upon it, a default frame (40) may be superimposed or installed

upon the computer screen (20) (claims **8, 22**: user selection to enable the visual emphasis) [[0042], lines 1 – 3].

2. Claims **1, 5, 9, 15, 19, 23, 29, 30**, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishii et al. (US Publication No. US 2002/0109689 A1).

In regards to claims **1, 15** –

Ishii et al. discloses a computer system and method for enlarging an image within a portion of a screen displayed on a display in the vertical or horizontal direction of the screen when a predetermined event is caused by a user's operation [[0015], lines 1 – 5]. In Fig. 1, the CPU (10) is responsible for the operation of the entire PC and is under the control of an Operating System (OS). The system includes main memory (11), a liquid crystal display (12) or cathode ray tube (CRT) display unit (display means, display device main unit, output device main unit), a pointing device (13) such as a mouse for manipulating a mouse pointer displayed on the display screen (12) (claim **15**: input means), and keyboard device (14) (claim **15**: apparatus) [0041].

An image in a portion of the display screen is enlarged in only one direction and displayed in window W3, W'3. For example, when text (character strings) in a horizontal direction is displayed, the image (characters) of a portion of the display screen is enlarged in the vertical direction. Thus, the entire line is displayed in window W3, W'3' as in the state before the enlargement, improving convenience for the user as well as the visibility of the text (claims **1, 15**: visually emphasizing a row or column)

[0063]. In order to change the text line to be displayed in window W3, W3', only a change in position of mouse pointer P in the vertical or horizontal direction needs to be detected (claims 1, 15: user selection of a position) [[0065], lines 1 – 4].

In regards to claims 5, 19 –

The PC also includes an enlargement controller (enlarging means, output controller) (20) for enlarging a portion of the display of the display unit (12) (claim 19: control means) [0044]. As shown in Fig. 2, when an operation for enlargement by using the point device (13) or keyboard device (14) shown in Fig. 1 while an application window (50) is displayed over the entire display area of the display unit (12), the user-interface driver (17) detects the event and outputs a command for requesting the enlargement [[0047], lines 6 – 11]. The enlargement controller sets an area, C, to be enlarged based on the coordinates of the position of mouse pointer P (claims 5, 19: visually emphasized by magnifying) [[0050], lines 10 – 12].

In regards to claims 9, 23 –

When scrolling to change the text line to be displayed in window W3, W3', only a change in position of mouse point P in the vertical or horizontal direction needs to be detected. An area displayed in window W3 or W3' does not shift in an unintended direction during scrolling [0065]. Thus, it would have been understood to one in the art at the time the invention was made that the visual emphasis stays with the row or column when moved in the display unless changed via the position of mouse point P.

In regards to claims **29, 30** –

As shown in Fig. 1, of Ishii et al., the CPU (10) (claim **29**: processor) is responsible for the operation of the entire PC and is under the control of an Operating System (OS) to carry out the method of claim **1** (see rational of claim **1**). The system includes main memory (claim **29**: memory) (11), a liquid crystal display (12) or cathode ray tube (CRT) display unit (display means, display device main unit, output device main unit) (claim **29**: display), a pointing device (13) such as a mouse for manipulating a mouse pointer displayed on the display screen (12), and keyboard device (14) [0041]. Furthermore, the program for making a computer enlarge characters or an image within an area provided in a portion of the display area, may take the form of a storage medium or program transmission apparatus (claim **30**: carrier medium) [0074]. The program executed by the computer may be stored in a storage medium such as a CD-ROM, a DVD, memory (claim **29**: program memory), or a hard disk in a computer-readable manner [0075]. The program transmission apparatus may comprise storage means, such as a CD-ROM, a DVD, memory, or a hard disk, on which the program is stored, and transmission means for reading the program from the storage means and transmitting it to a computer system which executes the program through a connector or a network such as the Internet or a LAN [0076].

3. Claims **1 – 3, 10 – 13, 15 – 17, 24 – 27** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Simon ("Excel in a Nutshell").

In regards to claims **1, 13, 15, 27** –

Excel is one of a series of computer programs commonly referred to as “spreadsheet software” (claim **13, 27**: spreadsheet). It provides the ability to work with data, such as text, numeric, logical, or a formula, by placing it in a series of rows and columns (claims **1, 15**: alphanumeric characters displayed in horizontal rows and/or columns) [chpt. 1 “Excel Basics”]. The location where a specific row or column intersects is referred to as a cell (claim **13, 27**: spreadsheet comprises cells). Everything within an Excel worksheet is organized into rows and columns. An entire row can be selected by clicking on the row identifier (claim **1, 15**: visually emphasizing a row or column to the selected position) [chpt. 2.1]. It would have been known in the art at the time the invention was made to run the Excel computer program on a computer that contains a CPU, a display, as well as an input device, such as a mouse for, for example, clicking on the row identifier (**15, 27**: apparatus).

In regards to claims **2, 3, 16, 17** –

Simon teaches adding borders to selected rows, columns or cells. A line type and color may be selected, thus allowing for an opaque line to be displayed as claimed (claim **2, 16**: opaque bar). Furthermore, the user can choose to only display a bottom line that is located between adjacent rows (claim **3, 17**: bar displayed between row or column and adjacent row or column) [chpt 7, “Format”].

In regards to claims **10, 12, 24, 26** –

Simon teaches being able to insert comments after selecting the cell. When a comment is created, it contains space to enter the comment, as shown in Fig. 6-18 (claim **12, 26**: enable the input of comments). When a comment is inserted, a red triangle displays in the upper-left corner of the cell as shown in Fig. 6-18 (claim **10, 24**: receiving user input comments for association with the row or column). When the mouse cursor is dragged across a cell that contains a comment, the comment is displayed on the worksheet (claims **10, 24**: displaying input comments) [chpt. 6, “Insert Comment”]. An entire row can be selected by clicking on the row identifier (claim **12, 26**: user selection to visually emphasize) [chpt. 2.1].

In regards to claims **11, 25** –

A row may be inserted in between adjacent rows and an entire row, such as the row inserted can be selected by clicking on the row identifier [chpt. 2.1]. These rows can contain text relating to user-annotated comments [chpt. 1 “Excel Basics”].

4. Claims **1, 14, 15, 28** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Camarda (“Special Edition Using Microsoft Word 2000”).

In regards to claims **1, 14, 15, 28** –

Microsoft Word (claim **14, 28**) allows the user to emphasize a line of text using the Highlighter. It aids in calling attention to text (claim **1, 15**: visual emphasis) [pg. 900].

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To highlight one block of text, select it and click the Highlight icon [pg. 901]. It is inherent that to select the text, the user selects the text via keyboard or mouse. It would have been known in the art at the time the invention was made to run the Word computer program on a computer that contains a CPU, a display, as well as an input device, such as a mouse for, for example, clicking on the row identifier (15, 27: apparatus). It is well known in the art that Microsoft Word is a word processing application where lines and columns of text would be displayed (claim 14, 28).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. US 6,579,324 B1 to Lowry et al.

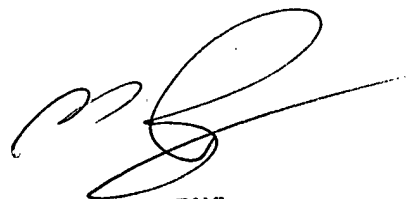
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michelle K. Lay whose telephone number is (571) 272-7661. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:00am - 3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi can be reached on (571) 272-7664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

05.05.2005 mkl



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